

Module Title:	Franciscan Formation Seminars
Module Code:	430 FFFS
Level:	4
Credit Rating:	10 Credits
Duration:	Student Learning Time: 100 hours
Teaching Hours:	40 Hours
Academic Responsibility:	Séamus Mulholland OFM, Ph.D.

Module Aims:

This module will introduce students to the dynamics involved in the theory and practice of Franciscan Formation from initial formation through to on-going or life formation. The primary aim is to give a grounding in the “Franciscanological”, Anthropological, Canonical facets of the Formation process; assist in the personal formation growth and development of those involved in the Formation ministry in the Franciscan Movement and to ensure that those involved in the ministry of Formation acquire the relevant Franciscan and Human Development background for the skills they will need for this ministry.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this module students will be expected to have acquired:

1. a knowledge of the fundamental principles underlining Franciscan Formation
2. a knowledge of the Franciscan and ecclesial documents that relate to Formation
3. an understanding of the processes involved in the growth and development of those in Franciscan Formation including those skills necessary for ministry as Formation personnel within their Province/Congregation
4. recognition of their own personal skills and needs as appropriate for Franciscan Formation
5. skills for structuring a formation programme at every level of Formation
6. the ability to form independent opinions and to use the Franciscan Formation documents appropriately to support conclusions
7. understanding of the key role played by Ongoing Formation in human, Christian, and Franciscan Formation
8. the skill of presenting Franciscan Formation materials, organised in a coherent argument, in written or oral format, with references and bibliography related to Franciscan Formation documents where necessary

Indicative Module Content:

This module explores the nature of formation first of all at the human level then at the Christian and then the Franciscan so that one can now speak of a Tripartite Formative “Franciscanology” and Anthropology. It begins by exploring the nature of human formation, then moves to consider the Christian formation of the human person and finally the Franciscan formation of the human person. An examination is made into some of the levels at which the human person is formed, e.g. psychic, intellectual, emotional, sexual, etc., followed by an investigation into how the human person is formed e.g. examining the formation of Jesus of Nazareth within his own time, culture and ethos. Finally the Franciscan person is considered through an exploration of the factors involved in the formation of Francis of Assisi: cultural, literary, religious, socio-economic, historical. The module utilises various texts, Christian and Franciscan, to give a solid grounding in this formative Franciscan anthropology.

In the practical application component, the module builds on the theory presented with that of teaching and developing Formation skills, including the formulation and adaptation of Formation Plans for each level of Formation and also the development of the Human, Christian and Franciscan person within the formative context and the requirements of Canon Law. Finally, this module will explore Ongoing Formation both theoretically and practically through examination and study of the most recent documents from the Franciscan movement on Ongoing formation and practical application of Ongoing formation initiatives and strategies including leading and supervising group work.

Learning and Teaching Strategies:

Lectures, question and answer, exploration of specific issues to varying levels of Franciscan Formation, presentations of papers by students, group work.

Assessment:

Students will:

1. write a 1,500 word essay that incorporates theory and application to the different dimensions of Franciscan Formation (60%)

AND

2. prepare a 1,000 word Formation Programme (40%)

Illustrative Bibliography

- Armstrong, Hellman, Short, eds. (1999; 2000; 2001) *Francis of Assisi: Early Documents, Vol 1 The Saint; Vol 2 The Founder; The Prophet* London, NCP
- Armstrong, R.J. (1994) *St. Francis of Assisi: Writings for a Gospel Life.* St Paul's Press
- Carney, M., Godet-Calogeras, J. F., Kush, S. M., eds. (2008) *History of the Third Order Regular Rule: A Source Book* Franciscan Institute
- Mc Cormack A. (1991) *God the Man and His Word* London
- Rogers C. (1990) *On Becoming a Person* London
- ## Journals and Documents
- Formation Congress (2005) *Eramus Fratres!* Assisi and Rome
- Franciscan Federation (1994) *Resources for the Study of the Third Order Regular Rule* Washington
- Franciscan Federation (1997) *The Rule and Life of the Brothers and Sisters of the Third Order Regular* Washington
- General Secretariat for Rome Formation and Studies (1995) *Ongoing Formation in the Order of Friars Minor*
- Mulholland S. (1999) 'St Francis and the Themes of Medieval Literature', *The Cord*, No. 3.
- Order of Friars Minor (2002) *Ratio Formationis* Rome